

App. No. 10/519,599

Amendment dated Jun. 9, 2007

Reply to final Office action dated Mar. 9, 2007

Docket No. AB-1400 US

(Ref. No. LW8035PC-US)

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above amendment and the following remarks are in reply to the final Office action of 03/09/2007. In light of this reply, reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Twenty claims were pending in this Application. In the above amendment, two claims (1 and 14) were amended, and none was cancelled or added. Accordingly, 20 claims remain pending for reconsideration and further examination.

In section 1 of the Office action, claims 1, 2, and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ueda et al. (U.S. 7,178,963).

In section 3, claims 3, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Over Ueda et al. (U.S. 7,178,963) in view of Iwata et al. (U.S. 6,111,699).

In section 4, claims 5 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueda et al. (U.S. 7,178,963) in view of Honda et al. (U.S. 2002/0012085).

In section 5, claims 6 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueda et al. (U.S. 7,178,963) in view of Honda et al. (U.S. 2002/0012085) in further view of Iwata et al. (U.S. 6,111,699).

In section 6, claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueda et al. (U.S. 7,178,963) in view of Iwamoto et al. (U.S. 5,046,826).

The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed, on the grounds that the Ueda et al. ('963) reference is not prior art.

In particular, it is noted that Ueda et al. is not an "international application" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102(e), and accordingly, has an effective filing date in the U.S. that is the same as its actual filing date, viz., July 26, 2002, whereas, the instant application has an effective U.S. filing date of June 28, 2002. Accordingly, Ueda et al. is not "prior art" under any provision of 35 U.S.C. §102. Therefore, the above rejections based on Ueda et al. as prior art are untenable and should be withdrawn.

In section 2, of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ogawa et al. (U.S. 6,636,282).

In section 7, claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa et al. (U.S. 6,636,282) in view of Iwamoto et al. (U.S. 5,046,826).

In light of the above amendments to independent claims 1 and 14 and the remarks that follow, it is respectfully submitted that the foregoing rejections are now moot.

In particular, independent claims 1 and 14 now include the following distinguishing limitations:

Claim 1: "... a receiving container having ... a plate defining first and second ledges extending at least partially about an upper periphery thereof, the second ledge being disposed above the first ledge and having an inner edge generally coincident with or disposed outside of an outer edge of the first ledge such that the first and second ledges do not overlap;"

Claim 14: "... a receiving container including ... a plate defining first and second ledges extending at least partially about an upper periphery thereof, ... the second ledge being disposed above the first ledge and having an inner edge generally coincident with or disposed outside of an outer edge of the first ledge such that the first and second ledges do not overlap."

As may be seen in Fig. 16 thereof, Ogawa et al. teach a receiving container MCA having sidewalls with ledges defined by a U-shaped channel at the upper end thereof. However, the ledges are aligned with each other, such that their respective inner and outer edges are respectively coincident and they overlap each other. This necessitates, *inter alia*, leaving one end of the housing open so that the light diffusing plate SCT can be slid laterally onto the lower ledge of the housing during assembly, unlike the housing of the present invention, which enables the diffusion members to be installed (and removed) from the housing in the vertical direction after assembly. Since Ogawa et al. fail to teach or suggest the foregoing limitations and resulting advantages, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 14, as well as the claims respectively dependent from them, are allowable over Ogawa et al. as well as the other art of record.

On page 7 of the Office action, the Examiner objected to claims 9, 12 and 16-20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, for which the Applicant expresses appreciation. However, in light of the foregoing reply, it is respectfully submitted that all claims (1-20) of the Application are now allowable over the art of record, and Applicant therefore respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

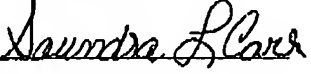
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If there are any questions regarding this Reply, the undersigned can be reached at the number below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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